India "Museums" is a State subject and therefore, State Governments are mainly concerned with the matters relating to museums. However, a Central Advisory Board of Museums has been constituted by Department of Culture, Government of India to strengthen preservation and conservation of cultural heritage of the country. The Board has advised museums in the country to step up documentation of their art treasures and publication programmes which would be useful to the research scholars and the general public.

Books in NCERT Godowns

1026. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books worth some lakhs of rupees are lying unused and got rusted in the godowns of NCERT;

(b) if so, whether any investigations have been made into the causes of this state of affairs; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to put the books to proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A Committee of the Officers, set up by NCERT had reviewed the position of all textbooks lying unsold in the Council. It had identified 174 titles of old textbooks which could not be used further by the schools due to:—

(i) De-prescription by the educational authorities;

(ii) Introduction of new educational pattern;

(iii) Revision of old textbooks.

(c) Steps are being taken by NCERT for the disposal of these books as waste paper.

Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin Broad Gauge Line

1027. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Karur-Dindigul broad gauge line would be ready;

(b) by when Railway would undertake Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin broad gauge line;

(c) what would be the cost of Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin broad gauge line; and

(d) whether any funds have been sanctioned for the purpose, if so, what are the details thereof and the amount spent so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) This new line will be opened to traffic in August, 1988.

(b) Work has been taken up for parallel BG line between Dindigul and Madurai. Parallel BG line between Talayithu, Maniyachi and Millavittan has been completed.

(c) and (d) Cost of Dindigul-Madurai parallel BG line, Madurai-Maniyachi conversion and Millavittan-Tuticorin parallel BG line is about Rs. 95 crore. Expenditure incurred upto March, 1988 on Dindigul-Madurai parallel BG line is Rs. 6.93 crore. Expenditure in 1988-89 will be incurred from the total allotment of Rs. 5.01 crore for the entire project.

Cancellation of Direct Flight between Madras and Jeddah for Haj Pilgrims

1028. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to cancel direct flight from Madras to Jeddah for Haj Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any appeal/memorandum has been received to restore the flight; and

(d) if so, what decision has since been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Phase I of Haj operations from India to Jeddah was undertaken by Saudia. Saudia could not operate flights from Madras due to their own constraints.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Air India carried these pilgrims from Madras to Bombay, for onward journey to Jeddah.

Centre of Indian Languages in the Jawaharlal Nehru University

1029. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) on which date the Centre of Indian Languages in Jawahar Lal Nehru University had started functioning;

(b) what is the strength of faculty, language-wise;

(c) what courses are being offered by the Centre and which languages are being offered;

(d) what are the reasons for which the South Indian and other Indian Languages have not been introduced in this Centre, so far; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken to introduce these languages, immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The Centre of Indian Languages in Jawaharlal Nehru University has been functioning since August 1974. It has six teachers in Hindi and five in Urdu. The following programmes of study are offered by the Centre:—

(1) Hindi and Urdu at Post-graduate and research levels;

(2) Advanced Diploma of Proficiency in Mass Media in Urdu;

(3) Certificate of Proficiency in Urdu; and

(4) Optional Courses in Hindi/Urdu.

(d) and (e) In view of the constraint of resources, the University is not in a position to expand the activities of the Centre.

Reservation Office at Ernakulam Junction

1030. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of berths including second class, first class, AC sleeper and AC first class being handled by Ernakulam Junction Reservation office train-wise figures;

(b) what is the total number of staff including officers on duty as on date; whether there is any vacancy to be filled up, if so, what are the details thereof and steps taken to fill them up immediately;

(c) what is the number of reservation counters functioning at present and whether it is a fact that some counters are not functioning; if so, what are reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that area where reservation office is presently located is too small and inadequate to locate all the counters; if so, what steps are being taken to expand the area of reservation office Ernakulam Junction in near future; and

(e) by when reservation system at Ernakulam junction would be computerised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(b) As against the normal sanctioned strength of 26 Reservation Clerks, 28 are in position.